

By: Kolkhorst, Huffman, Nelson

S.B. No. 17

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to maternal health and safety, pregnancy-related deaths,
and maternal morbidity, including postpartum depression.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 34.005, Health and Safety Code, is
amended to read as follows:

Sec. 34.005. DUTIES OF TASK FORCE. The task force shall:

(1) study and review:

(A) cases of pregnancy-related deaths; ~~and~~

(B) trends, rates, or disparities in pregnancy-related deaths and ~~in~~ severe maternal morbidity;

(C) health conditions and factors that disproportionately affect the most at-risk population as determined in the joint biennial report required under Section 34.015; and

(D) best practices and programs operating in other states that have reduced rates of pregnancy-related deaths;

(2) compare rates of pregnancy-related deaths based on the socioeconomic status of the mother;

(3) determine the feasibility of the task force studying cases of severe maternal morbidity; and

(4) in consultation with the Perinatal Advisory Council, ~~(3)~~ make recommendations to help reduce the incidence of pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal morbidity in this

1 state.

2 SECTION 2. Sections 34.007(a) and (b), Health and Safety
3 Code, are amended to read as follows:

4 (a) The department shall determine a statistically
5 significant number of cases of pregnancy-related deaths for review.
6 The department shall either randomly select cases or select all
7 cases for the task force to review under this subsection to reflect
8 a cross-section of pregnancy-related deaths in this state.

9 (b) The department shall statistically analyze aggregate
10 data of pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal morbidity in
11 this state to identify any trends, rates, or disparities.

12 SECTION 3. Section 34.015(b), Health and Safety Code, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 (b) The report must include the task force's
15 recommendations under Section 34.005(4) [~~34.005(3)~~].

16 SECTION 4. Chapter 34, Health and Safety Code, is amended by
17 adding Sections 34.0155, 34.0156, and 34.0157 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 34.0155. REPORT ON PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATHS, SEVERE
19 MATERNAL MORBIDITY, AND POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION. The commission
20 shall:

21 (1) evaluate options for reducing pregnancy-related
22 deaths, focusing on the most prevalent causes of pregnancy-related
23 deaths as identified in the joint biennial report required under
24 Section 34.015, and for treating postpartum depression in
25 economically disadvantaged women;

26 (2) in coordination with the department and the task
27 force, identify strategies to:

1 (A) lower costs of providing medical assistance
2 under Chapter 32, Human Resources Code, related to severe maternal
3 morbidity and chronic illness; and

4 (B) improve quality outcomes related to the
5 underlying causes of severe maternal morbidity and chronic illness;
6 and

7 (3) not later than December 1 of each even-numbered
8 year, submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker
9 of the house of representatives, the Legislative Budget Board, and
10 the appropriate standing committees of the legislature a written
11 report that includes:

12 (A) a summary of the commission's and
13 department's efforts to accomplish the tasks described by
14 Subdivisions (1) and (2); and

15 (B) a summary of the report required by Section
16 34.0156.

17 Sec. 34.0156. MATERNAL HEALTH AND SAFETY INITIATIVE. (a)
18 Using existing resources, the department, in collaboration with the
19 task force, shall promote and facilitate the use among health care
20 providers in this state of maternal health and safety informational
21 materials, including tools and procedures related to best practices
22 in maternal health and safety.

23 (b) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year,
24 the department shall submit a report to the executive commissioner
25 that includes:

26 (1) a summary of the initiative's implementation and
27 outcomes; and

1 (2) recommendations for improving the effectiveness
2 of the initiative.

3 Sec. 34.0157. FEASIBILITY STUDY RELATED TO MATERNAL HEALTH
4 AND SAFETY INITIATIVE. (a) Using existing resources and not later
5 than December 1, 2018, the commission shall study and determine the
6 feasibility of adding a provider's use of procedures included in
7 the maternal health and safety initiative described by Section
8 34.0156 as an indicator of quality for commission data and medical
9 assistance quality-based payment purposes.

10 (b) The department shall collaborate with the commission in
11 compiling available data and information needed to complete the
12 feasibility study.

13 (c) The commission shall include the commission's
14 determination from the feasibility study in the report required by
15 Section 34.0155.

16 (d) This section expires May 1, 2019.

17 SECTION 5. Section 34.018, Health and Safety Code, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Sec. 34.018. SUNSET PROVISION. The task force is subject to
20 Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act). Unless continued
21 in existence as provided by that chapter, the task force is
22 abolished and this chapter expires September 1, 2023 [~~2019~~].

23 SECTION 6. If before implementing any provision of this Act
24 a state agency determines that an additional waiver or additional
25 authorization from a federal agency is necessary for implementation
26 of that provision, the agency affected by the provision shall
27 request the waiver or authorization and may delay implementing that

1 provision until the waiver or authorization is granted.

2 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
7 legislative session.